

Common Beliefs around Vaginal Illness and Water Quality in Haiti

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Abstract

There is a need for research that explores the perceptions of health concerns from a local perspective, so that where appropriate and deemed necessary, medical interventions and educational initiatives can be effectively designed to respond to public needs, misconceptions, or behavioural practices. Initial pilot needs assessments conducted in the Coastal Ouest region of Haiti alluded to a belief that vaginal illness related to water quality is a major concern among community members. Cultural perceptions of vaginal illness related to water quality were explored with Haitian participants expressing the belief that water is a direct cause of vaginal illness. Vaginal illness is a frequent complaint among Haitian women seeking gynaecological care, though very little qualitative research exists on how women seek to prevent or treat these illnesses. The current research indicates that the additional monitoring of shared household water sources used for personal hygiene, in the absence of piped household water, is a potential public health concern related to vaginal illness in Haiti. Further research is needed to determine how public health messaging in the region may influence perceptions of risk and behaviours related to water and personal hygiene.

Keywords:

Vaginal Illness; Water Quality; Haiti; Cultural Perceptions; Public Health

Introduction

Haiti is a country in the Caribbean with a population of approximately 10 million. The country is divided into 10 departments, with the Ouest region being one of the most densely populated. In the Ouest region, there is a high prevalence of vaginal illness, with 80% of women reporting symptoms in the past 12 months. This is a significant public health concern, as vaginal illness is a common cause of discomfort and can lead to more serious complications if not treated. The current research was conducted to explore the cultural perceptions of vaginal illness related to water quality in the Ouest region of Haiti. The results of the study indicate that a large proportion of women believe that water is a direct cause of vaginal illness. This finding is significant as it highlights the need for public health messaging that addresses these cultural beliefs and provides information on how to prevent and treat vaginal illness. The current research indicates that the additional monitoring of shared household water sources used for personal hygiene, in the absence of piped household water, is a potential public health concern related to vaginal illness in Haiti. Further research is needed to determine how public health messaging in the region may influence perceptions of risk and behaviours related to water and personal hygiene.

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There is a need for research that explores the perceptions of health concerns from a local perspective, so that where appropriate and deemed necessary, medical interventions and educational initiatives can be effectively designed to respond to public needs, misconceptions, or behavioural practices. Initial pilot needs assessments conducted in the Coastal Ouest region of Haiti alluded to a belief that vaginal illness related to water quality is a major concern among community members. Cultural perceptions of vaginal illness related to water quality were explored with Haitian participants expressing the belief that water is a direct cause of vaginal illness. Vaginal illness is a frequent complaint among Haitian women seeking gynaecological care, though very little qualitative research exists on how women seek to prevent or treat these illnesses. The current research indicates that the additional monitoring of shared household water sources used for personal hygiene, in the absence of piped household water, is a potential public health concern related to vaginal illness in Haiti. Further research is needed to determine how public health messaging in the region may influence perceptions of risk and behaviours related to water and personal hygiene.

Methods

Sampling methods

The study was conducted in the Ouest region of Haiti. The sampling was done through a snowball sampling method. The study was conducted in the Ouest region of Haiti. The sampling was done through a snowball sampling method. The study was conducted in the Ouest region of Haiti. The sampling was done through a snowball sampling method.

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Received: August 08, 2017; Accepted: September 26, 2017; Published: October 03, 2017

Citation: Chapman KS, Wood EA, McKune SL, De RE VMB (2017) Common Beliefs around Vaginal Illness and Water Quality in Haiti. Air Water Borne Dis 6: 136. doi: 10.4172/2167-7719.1000136

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Citation: Chapman KS, Wood EA, McKune SL, De RE VMB (2017) Common Beliefs around Vaginal Illness and Water Quality in Haiti. *Air Water Borne Dis* 6: 136. doi: [10.4172/2167-7719.1000136](https://doi.org/10.4172/2167-7719.1000136)

Citation:

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d) Douching:

..... H. C. H. R. 97% H. 16. D. HP 16 17. H. I. /

e) Hygiene:

..... H. F. A. 13.

f) Latrines: H =13 (35%)

..... A. P. H.

Symptoms

D. D.)6 (.1 () 3()8 (.)4 (71 . 0 -1.25 (.),)9 3 ()-9 ((

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